

AUG 28 2006

Appl. No. 10/754,022
Response dated August 28, 2006
Reply to office action of Aug. 2, 2006

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

Claims 1-5 (Canceled)

6. (Original) A system for controlling fluid flow within an oil and gas well under pressure, which comprises:

- a. a first drilling string defining a first annulus therein;
- b. a plurality of casings positioned around the drill string to define a plurality of annuli therebetween;
- c. fluid flowing down some of the plurality of annuli and returning up at least one common return annulus, for defining a frictional component within the system to restrict the return fluid flow sufficiently to control the well.

7. (Original) The system in claim 6, wherein the oil and gas well may be a straight, directional or multilateral well.

Please add the following claims:

8. (New) A system for continuous mud circulation while making jointed pipe connections in an oil and gas well, which comprises:

- a. a first drilling string defining a first annulus therein;
- b. a plurality of casings positioned around the drill string to define a plurality of annuli therebetween;
- c. fluid flowing down some of the plurality of annuli and returning up at least one common return annulus, for defining a seamless circulation environment within the system during jointed pipe connections.

9. (New) The system in claim 8, wherein the seamless circulation environment comprises a downhole environment in the well bore having a substantially constant equivalent circulating pressure (ECD), without associated pressure spikes.

10. (New) The system in claim 8, wherein the oil and gas well may be a straight, directional, horizontal or multilateral well.

11. (New) The system in claim 10, wherein the system may include multi-lateral components extending outward from the straight, directional, horizontal or multilateral wells.

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12. (New) A method for continuous mud circulation while making jointed pipe connections in an oil and gas well, which comprises:

- a. a first drilling string defining a first annulus therein;
- b. a plurality of casings positioned around the drill string to define a plurality of annuli therebetween so that fluid flowing down some of the plurality of annuli and returning up at least one common return annulus, does so in a downhole environment in the well bore at a near constant equivalent circulating pressure (ECD), eliminating associated pressure spikes associated with stopping or re-starting the circulation environment.

13. (New) In a system providing continuous mud circulation while making jointed pipe connections in an oil and gas well, the system having a first drill string defining a first annulus, and a plurality of casings positioned around the drill string to define a plurality of annuli therebetween, so that fluid flowing down at least some of the plurality of annuli and returning at least up the one common return annulus defines a seamless circulation environment within the system which having a substantially constant equivalent circulating pressure without associated pressure spikes.

14. (New) A system for continuous and seamless mud circulation while making jointed pipe connections in an oil and gas well, which comprises:

- a. a first drilling string defining a first annulus therein;
- b. a plurality of casings positioned around the drill string to define a plurality of annuli therebetween;
- c. fluid flowing down some of the plurality of annuli and returning up at least one common return annulus, for defining a seamless circulation environment within the system during jointed pipe connections.

15. (New) The system in claim 14, wherein the fluid further comprises a gas or a liquid, or a combination of gas and liquid.

16. (New) The system in claim 15, where gas would comprise air, nitrogen or natural gas.